

deemed and taken to be due and lawful notice of service of process upon the company.

Branches.

SEC. 22. *Be it further enacted*, That said company shall have power to construct branches to said road, or to connect with any other railroad that may be constructed; and any contract that may be entered into with any other railroad company, by the president and directors of said company, after the consent of a majority of the stockholders first obtained, shall be binding on the said company.

Bonds.

SEC. 23. *Be it further enacted*, That it may and shall be lawful for the said Central Railroad Company to make and issue bonds to an amount not exceeding four hundred thousand dollars, to be signed by the president of said company, under the common seal of the same, in sums of one thousand dollars each, bearing interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, to be paid semi-annually in the city of New York or Boston, at their option, and redeemable in 1880.

Security.

SEC. 24. *Be it further enacted*, That to secure the faithful payment of the said bonds, it shall and may be lawful for the president and directors of the Central Railroad Company to make, execute and deliver to such persons, either in the city of New York or Boston as the said company may select and appoint, a deed of trust or mortgage, under the common seal of said company, wherein shall be conveyed to the person thus appointed trustee, the road, property, income and franchises of said company acquired or to be acquired, conditioned for the payment of the interest and final redemption of said bonds.

Exemptions.

SEC. 25. *Be it further enacted*, That all the officers of the company, and servants and persons in the actual employment of the company, be and they are hereby exempt from performing ordinary militia duty, working on public roads and serving as jurors.

SEC. 26. *Be it further enacted*, That all the work hereby required shall be executed with due diligence, and if it be not commenced within four years after the ratification of this act, then this charter shall be void.

Towns or counties may subscribe.

SEC. 27. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for any incorporated town, or any county through which said railroad may pass, to subscribe for such amount of stock in said company as they or either of them shall be authorized to do by the inhabitants of said town or the citizens of such county, in manner and form as hereinafter provided.

How to proceed.

SEC. 28. *Be it further enacted*, That the corporate authorities of such town, or the justices of the peace of such county, (a majority of the justices of said county concurring,) are authorized to make an order requiring the constable of such town, and the sheriff of such county, at such time and on such notice as they shall direct, to open a poll and take the